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Message Text

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15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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SUBJECT: US-SOVIET SEMINAR IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION
REF: 9917

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONSULTING INFORMALLY WITH HEW AND LEADING US SPECIALISTS IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION RE PROPOSED SEMINAR, AND IS PREPARED TO SEND 12-PERSON DELEGATION TO USSR FOR TWO TO THREE WEEK STAY, ARRIVING O/A NOVEMBER 29. (PERIOD BETWEEN THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WOULD BE MOST CONVENIENT FOR US DELEGATES.)

2. WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH LIST OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS AND THEIR FIELDS OF INTEREST (REFTEL B) INVOLVED IN SOVIET PLANS FOR SEMINAR WHICH WE SEE AS EVIDENCE OF SOVIET INTEREST IN SEMINAR SUCCESS. FOCUS OF US DELEGATION'S PRIMARY INTEREST WILL BE "SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILITIES"; THIS IS AN AREA OF MAJOR CURRENT INTEREST IN US IN WHICH WE BELIEVE SOVIETS MAY HAVE EXPERIENCE OF INTEREST TO US EDUCATORS AND SPECIALISTS.
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THIS SUBJECT WOULD INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, SUCH TOPICS AS

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EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS IN DAY CARE, WORK ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORKING MOTHERS, PARENT EDUCATION, AND PROGRAMS RELATING TO FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY IN RAISING YOUNG CHILDREN. TO ASSURE ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO BOTH US AND SOVIET INTERESTS,

INCLUDING SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED, PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS, ON-SITE VISITS AND TRAVEL, WE PROPOSE TO SEND ADVANCE MAN IN SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS SEMINAR PLANS WITH MINED. SUBJECT TO HIS AVAILABILITY, WE HOPE TO SEND

PROF. URIE BRONFENBRENNER OF CORNELL, WHO SPEAKS RUSSIAN AND IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO MINISTRY AND MANY OF PROPOSED SOVIET DISCUSSANTS. FYI WE ARE HOPEFUL OF RECRUITING HIGH-LEVEL US DELEGATION, BUT WISH TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT FORMAT OF SEMINAR WILL PROVIDE FOR MEANINGFUL TWO-WAY DISCUSSIONS, AND NOT MERELY ONE-SIDED EXPOSITIONS OF WHAT EACH SIDE IS DOING IN AREAS UNDER DISCUSSION. BRONFENBRENNER TRAVEL WOULD BE PAID BY JOHNSON FOUNDATION WHICH HAS HIGH INTEREST IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AND IS EXPECTED TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN RETURN VISIT TO US BY SOVIET DELEGATION, POSSIBLY IN SPRING 1976, FOR SECOND SEMINAR ON SAME OR RELATED SUBJECT. END FYI.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY RESPONSE FROM MINISTRY, BY MID-AUGUST IF POSSIBLE, CONFIRMING NOVEMBER 29 ARRIVAL TO ENABLE US TO INITIATE RECRUITMENT OF BEST QUALIFIED US DELEGATION. INGERSOLL

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